The Sun.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1904.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second-Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month........ $0 50
DAILY, Per Year........ 6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year........ 2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year........ 8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month........ 70
Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Do the English Really Like Us?

Mr. W. D. Howells, who not long ago, it may be recalled, was made a D. C. L. at Oxford, has undertaken in the current number of the *North American Review* to explain what, so far as he has observed, is the feeling with which Englishmen regard Americans. There is no doubt that formerly the question which he essays to answer was deemed by many of us to be not only interesting, but important. For divers reasons it has ceased to have in our eyes any importance, though it may still possess, perhaps, some interest of an academic kind.

The fundamental reason for the relative indifference with which English opinions of men and things American are now viewed by educated men and women in this country is the awakening of their consciousness to the actual and prospective rank of the United States among the great Powers of the earth. The awakening began in the ninth decade of the nineteenth century, if not earlier; but not until after the Spanish war can we be said to have become fully awake. We now know that, owing to our vastly superior pecuniary resources and the signally greater volume of our population, we could quickly, if we chose, create an army and a navy which on paper Great Britain could not match, and we have ground for believing that our military and naval forces would be better handled than the British. With a marked and increasing preponderance of material strength coexist many indications of approaching, if not yet attained, transcendence in almost every field of intellectual attainment. In classical scholarship, indeed, which has but little if any attraction for the twentieth century, it is possible that we may lag somewhat behind, although in the judgment of men possessing the dual qualifications of Prof. Goldwin Smith as good a classical education is now procurable at our foremost universities as at any of the British seats of learning. In the application of science to the work of civilization we have far outstripped our British competitors, and even in pure science we are fast overtaking them.

In a word, there is scarcely anything evolvable by the human brain that cannot be evolved as well on this as on the further side of the Atlantic, and there is nothing achievable by the human hand that is not better done in the United States than in Great Britain.

Under the circumstances, it is inevitable that in the twentieth century Americans should come to look upon Englishmen with something of the same condescension with which, in the second century before our era, the Romans surveyed the splendid but plainly decadent monarchies of the Hellenized East. A highly educated Roman patrician could still be flattered by a Greek, but it was no longer possible for him to feel the feverish and ill disguised anxiety with which at one time he had sought Hellenic approval of his acts and words. A radical change had been produced in his perspective and sense of proportion by his realization of the truth that, while Greece might claim a part of the fast fading past, to Rome belonged the future. A like thorough and drastic transformation has taken place in the attitude of Americans toward England. So long as we can discern a community of material interests between the United States and England we shall be glad, no doubt, to have the good will of Englishmen and shall be willing to cultivate it. But for their approval of our ideas, manners, habits, customs and tricks of speech we have ceased to care a jot. No longer do we pay the English the unconscious homage of imitation. Nobody is now so thoroughly despised by self-respecting people on this side of the Atlantic as an Anglicized American, who has been aptly characterized as a "sick Englishman."

In view of these indisputable facts, we can hardly be expected to be deeply concerned to learn from Mr. Howells that, in spite of the smooth professions of most London newspapers, there is in his mind grave doubt as to whether Englishmen like Americans generally, though, of course, they may like them individually. How *can* they like us as a nation, seeing that they cannot possibly understand us, unless, like Mr. Goldwin Smith or Mr. James Bryce, they have made us the subject of special and lifelong study? Englishmen can no more like Americans in general than they can like Germans in general, or Frenchmen in general. Even if we were, as we are not, of the same racial stock as the English, the two peoples could have no instinctive liking for each other, because there is no such thing as racial sympathy. People sometimes talk about the blood tie of the Latin nations, as if Spain, France and Italy had not been for hundreds of years the worst enemies of one another. Nor have there ever been recorded such frightful atrocities as were committed by Germans upon each other in the Thirty Years War.

It is, then, but an obvious truth to which Mr. Howells directs attention when he recognizes how absurd it is to ask an Englishman whether he likes Americans. The Englishman can no more answer such a question in the affirmative than we, if we weighed our words, could say yes to a correlative inquiry. The English don't and can't like us as a people, simply because they can't understand us. Here and there, if brought in close contact with us, they may like an individual Yankee, just as they may like an individual Jap. The absurdity of the attempt to generalize is well brought out by Mr. Howells when he confesses that he doesn't like all the Americans himself.

American Wheat and American Flour.

Secretary Shaw's effort to adjust the drawback on Canadian wheat is already creating complaint and exciting hostility among shortsighted American wheat growers. This is unavoidable, and the objection will remain active until the complainants realize that they are only frightened and not hurt. The next step in their process of education will be a perception of the fact that they are actually benefited.

Canada produces in large quantity a superior hard wheat which our soil and climate yield only in insufficient quantity. The Canadian wheat, mixed with the softer wheat of Kansas and other Western wheat areas, furnishes a superior grade of flour, for which we have an increasing demand for export markets. The demand rests largely on the superior quality of the product. To change the grade by limiting the whole or a part of the output to a mixture in which only the softer American grain is used would be to sacrifice a profitable market. Canada's hard product is a valuable factor in the maintenance of that market.

During the last three years our exports of wheat have fallen off persistently. For the first ten months of the calendar years, our shipments were 112,974,926 bushels in 1902; 62,781,620 in 1903, and 10,981,340 bushels in 1904. England's wheat purchases from other lands have doubled, trebled and quadrupled. But none of these countries can compete with the United States in flour. While our shipments of that article have fallen off because of short supply and domestic demand, there has been no such shrinkage as that shown in the grain. Flour shipments for corresponding periods were 14,619,814 barrels in 1902, 15,572,059 in 1903 and 9,987,241 in 1904.

It is better to ship flour than grain. It makes better business for millers and for railroads. It furnishes employment for many in the manufacture of sacks or barrels in which to pack the commodity. Flour shipment makes far more home business than wheat shipment. It increases the number of American flour eaters, hence also the demand for American wheat.

The logic of the situation, the sound business feature of it, lies in the removal of the duty on wheat and the treatment of the American and Canadian fields as one commercial area. There is an admitted advantage in combining the product of the two in the flouring mills, and that advantage is not at all limited to the proprietors of the mills. Good business suggests the extension of that advantage to its full possibility.

The protesting, short sighted American wheat growers will best serve their interests by opening their eyes to the advantage of the establishment of the United States as the great flour milling centre of the world, manufacturing the finest flour in the world for all the world to eat. If free wheat will contribute to that end, by all means let us have free wheat.

The Confusion in Austria-Hungary.

It is to be feared that the recent occurrences at Innsbruck in the Austrian Tyrol and the latest demonstrations in the Hungarian Parliament at Budapest are symptoms of an incurable disease in the body politic of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The domineering spirit of Pan-Germanism, in the first case, and the intolerance of Magyarism toward the other nationalities of the trans-Leithan kingdom, in the second, are the responsible causes.

In Austria the Germans and in Hungary the Magyars regard and treat the other races as inferior and resent any and every expression of their equal rights in the political constitution of the empire-kingdom over which the Emperor Francis Joseph reigns but has ceased to rule. In both cases the dominant race is in the minority, the Germans of Austria being about nine millions, as against fifteen millions of other races, and the Magyars of Hungary less than eight millions, as against nearly eleven and a half millions of other nationalities—and even they are not all Magyars by race, but include not far from a million of other nationalities who, speaking more or less Magyar, have been entered as such on the census returns by Magyar enumerators. This they have done in order to swell the number of that nationality, or they have described themselves as members of the dominant race for the sake of getting political and other privileges and advantages.

The difference between the two races dominating the distracted empire-kingdom is that while there is an element of progress in the German, the influence of the Magyar is reactionary; a distinction that becomes apparent to any one travelling in the provinces of Hungary and away from the glitter of Budapest. The trouble, however, in both cases is the same. The German and the Magyar try to cram their particular brand of civilization and their languages down the throats of the other races by force, and those races, the Slavonic and Rumanian, are among the most refractory to that kind of treatment of any races on earth.

Both are following the same line of policy toward the races they regard as inferior, yet in Hungary the Germans and Magyars are at daggers drawn. The number of Germans in the kingdom is about two and a quarter millions, scattered in small communities up and down the country. They are among the most industrious and progressive of the population, but are subject to the disabilities that all the other non-Magyar nationalities in Hungary labor under, though, unlike the others, they have the support of the Germans of Austria and the powerful influence of the German Empire to restrain in some measure the Magyar intolerance.

The Rumanians of Hungary are practically helpless, the little Danubian Kingdom of Rumania being without the power to render them either moral or material assistance, and the Slavs of the empire and kingdom, in which they form just half the total population, are so much broken up into different ethnical groups and by diversity of religion and ritual that they are without the cohesion necessary to command the respect due their numbers and rights. The only Slavic power to which they might look for help, Russia, is not one to which an oppressed people would turn for deliverance. As to the Italians of Austria, though few in number—about three-quarters of a million—they are in a position to hold their own had they to deal with Austria only; but behind Austria is Germany, and, as Bismarck once warned Crispi, the point of the German sword will be found at Trieste.

What is to come out of this welter of races, creeds and animosities, in the event of the early disappearance from the scene of the aged Emperor-King, except a dissolution of the tie binding the two countries together and a consequent confusion worse confounded, cannot very well be discerned. Perhaps when the decisive moment comes the German mailed fist may find an opportunity to establish order on a new basis.

Bald Heads as Railroad Signals.

The singular sensitiveness of the prophet Elisha to the remark of the little children who said to him, as he was going unto Beth-el: "Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head," must have struck every thoughtful reader of II. Kings ii., 23-24. That forty-two children should be eaten up by two she-bears for this reproach must be regarded as a parable, as a warning to children to be respectful to their elders. Living in the open air in a world as yet uncursed by the tall hat and the "derby," the pastoral patriarchs and the prophets must have kept their locks well. The almost universal custom of shaving the head as a sign of mourning may have given baldness an unpleasant connotation in the early days. If such a prejudice there was against the bare poll, more humane or scientific conceptions now prevail. Sages have demonstrated or asserted that baldness is a mark and result of high civilization, a badge of intellect or rapid transit living, and that the hairless age of man has come or is on the way.

A bald head of the right order of architecture is a sublime spectacle and has been the good fortune of many. It imposes upon the eye and mind. It is invaluable to a young professional man. There are men perspiring with prosperity the cause of which is nothing else than the earliness or the grandeur of their bald heads.

There are few more majestic objects in nature or art than an artistic bald head. Seeing such a splendor, you feel that there was less jest than truth in Edward FitzGerald's fear lest the great white dome of his friend James Spedding should be mistaken by ships in the Channel for the cliffs of Albion.

Beautiful and useful as this decoration or genius is, we had not been prepared for its new and brilliant application in railroading. Consider the case of Peter Walkirk:

> "An hour after Peter laid him down to sleep on the railroad bridge that spans the Columbia River a Great Northern express, speeding to make up lost time between Spokane Falls and Northern division, came bowling around the curve leading to the bridge. The engineer had a vision of his train going over the bridge like a hunted cat along a fence, when the glare of his headlight suddenly picked up something white and glistening on the track dead ahead. It glistened and shone and menaced, and the engineer, fascinated, reversed his engine and brought the train to a standstill ten yards from the shining patch of white, which as the train came nearer had become brighter still. Then he went out to investigate and found the bald head of Peter Walkirk looming up like a beacon. He was still asleep. He was awakened and brought to St. Paul, glad that he is alive and bald."

There is absolutely no reason to believe that this hero, this life saver, had been dallying with the cup that beers. He had the right to be sleepy and to go to sleep, and he forgot to consult the time table before he went to bed. His innocent error has been the means of discovering a new system of signalling. The red flag must be hauled down. It is useless in the fog or darkness, whereas a bright bald head is a perpetual searchlight and pillar of fire.

Good Health in Manila.

The month of August last showed a death rate for the city of Manila, with 219,941 inhabitants, of 28.65 to the thousand annually. According to the report of the Philippine Board of Health, if the native residents understood the proper care of children the death rate would not have been higher than that for communities of equal size in the United States.

The total number of deaths in August was 1,100, and 708 of them were of infants under 2 years of age. Even in New York, however, there was once a similarly heavy infant mortality, and it was not many years ago.

The death rate in Manila was lowest among the American residents, only 8.05 to the thousand annually. Next came the Spaniards, whose death rate was 13.97; but Europeans other than Spaniards show a rate of 31.64. The rate among the Chinese was 16.64. The Filipinos themselves, owing principally to the high death rate among infants, had a rate of 61.58, which the Department of Health is doing its best to reduce. This is a task of great difficulty, for the efforts to improve sanitary conditions meet with unreasoning opposition.

The low death rate among the American residents suggests that the tropical conditions of life in Manila are not as bad for the white man as they are usually painted. It is significant, also, that the birth rate among the American Manilans is higher than that of any other class of the population, except the natives themselves.

The vital statistics of Manila, except only as they record an abnormal and unnecessarily high death rate among the native children, are distinctly encouraging and show that excellent work is being done there by the sanitary engineers and health officers.

Having voted to impeach United States Judge Charles Swayne, the House of Representatives should be prompt in formulating its charges, and the Senate should not delay in the trial of the accused. So unusual a proceeding as the impeachment of a member of the Federal judiciary must attract great public attention, and the effect of any undue postponement of the final decision would be bad.

MRS. MAYBRICK'S PRISON LIFE

Her Reply to a Criticism of Her Description of Woking Prison Rules.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* My attention having been called to a communication in The Sun of this date, signed H. Hargreaves, seeking to show me in error in certain statements in my book (as quoted by you in your review) concerning the Woking prison outfit and discipline—and inasmuch as he undertakes to say that having proved me in the wrong as to some things, I may not be believed as to others—I beg your indulgence to reply that my statements may be accepted as perfectly truthful, especially as against Mr. Hargreaves, since no visitor, even though a guest of a prison governor (who would have committed a grave breach of the rules, at least at Woking at that time, if he had discussed either the discipline or the internal arrangements with any outsider) is allowed to see more than a portion of any prison.

Prisoners in solitary confinement in "G hall" at Woking were never on view—indeed, during the entire nine months while so confined I never saw other than officers—and this accounts for Mr. Hargreaves not seeing the cells described in my book. No stools or "benches" existed in Woking in 1889, nor at any time. In F and G halls the women sat on their bedclothes, as I state; in the other wards on upright logs of wood, about eighteen inches in height, fastened to the floor; hence the "benches" of which Mr. H. speaks, if he means Woking, could have existed only in his mind's eye.

The fact that Mr. H., as a visitor, never saw any prisoners exercise in the wet does not in the least contradict my statement that they did so, nor contravene the other statement that they had no change of shoes and stockings to protect them against the consequences of exposure, as it was a Woking rule that no prisoner was allowed more clothing than she had on her person. Indeed, so true is it that they were forced to exercise in almost all kinds of weather, that because of my susceptibility to colds I was, after a time, specially exempted from exercising in the wet by order of the medical officer.

Florence Elizabeth Maybrick.

New York, Dec. 13.

Mr. Tilden and Hugh McLaughlin in 1880.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* The death of Hugh McLaughlin recalls an incident of which I chanced to be a part that took place a day or two before the Democratic national convention met in 1880.

I was among many visitors at 15 Gramercy Park the evening before Mr. Tilden's friends were to leave for the convention, and Mr. McLaughlin was one of them. There was great uncertainty and solicitude about the acceptance of a renomination by Mr. Tilden which Montgomery Blair, Mr. Randall and other leaders of the party were urging with much vigor and pertinacity. Would Mr. Tilden accept or decline another nomination?

On the night mentioned Mr. McLaughlin was one of a group of gentlemen who were standing near him at the moment Mr. Tilden motioned me aside, and said: "My letter declining a renomination is in type. Would you like to see it?" A messenger from upstairs soon handed me the document for which the whole country was waiting. Mr. McLaughlin was still standing within easy earshot when Mr. Tilden was asked if he had told Mr. McLaughlin of his decision. His answer was: "No; we must not disband the troops until they get on the field."

Mr. Tilden mentioned Senator Payne of Ohio to me at that time as the man to nominate. I believed then, and believe now, that Mr. McLaughlin resented his reserve toward him prior to the meeting of the convention by his action as a delegate, which had much to do with the nomination of Gen. Hancock. G. L. M.

Omaha, Dec. 12.

Evening Opening of Savings Banks Called For.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* The All Night Bank is a step in the right direction. What has been long needed by working people—that is, the people who work long hours in factories and shops—has been something of this kind. Not exactly an all night bank, but a savings bank that keeps open in the evenings, or perhaps one evening in the week, to receive deposits.

Thousands of hardworking people find it difficult to get away from workshop or bench to put apart the few dollars for the "rainy day" they all should have in mind. The drinking saloons are open evenings; in fact, that is their busy time. And it is only too true that the hardworking man's wages is their best support.

I think that it would encourage thrift among the people if some of the principal savings banks opened their doors for a few hours in the evening—say to 8 or 9 o'clock; and no doubt it would benefit the banks themselves as well as the people, their families and children.

Brooklyn, Dec. 14. William L. Dooley.

A Suggested Field for the Mounted Police.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* The movement for better regulation of vehicular travel has done away with abuses tolerated since the days of the ox cart and the wood road on Manhattan Island.

As the writer ventured to hope, in the columns of The Sun some time ago, "the genius of our municipal government has turned from the barroom, the poolroom and other unsavory fields of activity to this most promising one, where conditions have prevailed that never would be tolerated in any of the lawless places frequently raided."

Perhaps the time will come when the mounted police will look down from their perches into the car windows and straighten out the dishevelled mass of humanity struggling therein from a chaos far greater than ever existed among the truck drivers.

New York, Dec. 14. J. P. D.

Sunday Postal Deliveries and the Postman's Whistle.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* In seeking to improve the postal facilities of New York, what would you think of a proposition to have one or two deliveries on Sunday in the residential districts? The shops, of course, could be omitted.

Such Sunday deliveries have been the rule in Europe for a generation, and would not break the Sabbath any more than the present collection from the street boxes on Sundays.

Don't you think, too, that we have outgrown the usefulness of the postman's whistle? It is a most discordant shriek and accomplishes no good purpose whatever, and certainly is one of the useless town noises that ought to be abolished.

New York, Dec. 13. Imperialist.

The Glory of "Middle Age."

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* A correspondent in Sunday's Sun says he feels "shocked" every time his "middle age" is referred to or suggested.

The present subscriber is nearly twenty years older than your correspondent, and he, too, feels shocked—and I think every man feels the same. Physically I feel as well as ever I did; and mentally I am a thousand times stronger than I was forty years ago, and I would not want to be younger.

New York, Dec. 14. E. H. J.

The Cupola of the City Hall.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* And now to the cupola of the City Hall let those in charge apply three coats of white enamel, in comparison with the dazzling brilliancy of which the drifting snow will seem the murkiest slush.

Until then let us restrain the pent-up gratitude which threatens to burst forth into a pæan of joy.

New York, Dec. 14. R. C. C.

Continued in Our Next.

Mrs. Knicker—I see the Mormons will give a divorce even after you are dead.

Mrs. de Kota—How perfectly lovely!

A beautiful, artistic cover adorns the *Delineator* for January. Besides the information regarding fashions and woman's various interests, there are three short stories and two poems. Mr. G. Kobbé writes on stage costumes and on Mendelssohn's love affairs, the articles on Washington society are continued, and a series on famous hymns begins. Hens and house building are also discussed. There is the usual wealth of illustration, including colored fashion plates.

THE SOCIALIST VOTE.

A Large Percentage of Increase Since 1896, but Still Insignificant Relatively.

From the Wall Street Journal.

An extraordinary outcome of the election was a great falling off in the total Democratic vote. Bryan polled 6,500,000 votes in 1896, while Parker in 1904 polled only a little more than 5,000,000. This is a loss of more than 27 per cent. in the Democratic vote in eight years. In the same time the Republican vote increased from 7,106,000 to 7,640,000, or about 6 per cent, the Republican gain being only about one-third of the Democratic loss. It is fair to assume that a large proportion of the voters who did not go to the polls and a large proportion of the votes cast this year for minor candidates were the votes of dissatisfied Democrats.

Viewed from this standpoint, the following table, showing the percentages of the popular vote of the past three elections cast by the Republican, Democratic, Prohibition Socialist and Populist parties, is of interest:

	Percentage of Popular Vote.		
	1904.	1900.	1896.
Republican	58.4	51.7	51.0
Democratic	38.4	45.5	46.7
Prohibition	1.8	1.4	1.0
Socialist	3.1	0.9	0.2
Populist	0.8	0.3	...

Since 1896 the Republican vote has increased 6.1 per cent., the Prohibition has creased 87.8 per cent., the Socialist has increased 1083.3 per cent, and the Democratic has decreased 27.6 per cent. These percentages make a comparison very gratifying to the Socialist party, but it must be remembered that the Socialist percentage of gain is based upon a very small aggregate vote. The total Socialist vote in 1896, 1900 and 1904, being the aggregate of the votes cast for both the Socialist and Socialist Labor parties, was as follows:

1896	36,274
1900	127,553
1904	426,376

Of the total Socialist vote in 1904, all but about 33,000 were cast for Debs, whose vote increased from 87,800 in 1900 to more than 392,000 in 1904. The States in which the Socialist vote was heaviest were as follows, comparisons being made also with the Socialist vote in these States in 1896 and 1900:

	1904.	1900.	1896.
Illinois	73,923	11,060	1,147
Ohio	38,893	6,585	1,167
New York	45,861	25,491	17,667
California	29,535	7,554	1,611
Wisconsin	28,443	7,559	1,314

These figures show how remarkable has been the increase in the Socialist vote, especially in Illinois and Ohio and Wisconsin—States located in the great conservative Middle West. Five States cast 50 per cent. of the Socialist vote in 1904 and 45 per cent. in 1900.

Senator Hanna is reported to have said before his death that the next great issue before this country would be socialism, but even admitting that the increase in the Socialist vote since 1896 means an actual growth in genuine socialism, and is not in part a mere expression of Democratic dissatisfaction with the control of that party, there is little ground as yet for apprehension. Socialism as a party will have to cast a much larger vote than it did this year in order to become a vital issue in politics.

Several times in the history of this country a side party has arisen, and in one or two Presidential elections has cast a large vote, only to die out quickly. As late as 1892, Weaver, candidate of the Populist party, received over 1,000,000 votes for President, while Watson this year polled only 124,000. It may be said that the bulk of the Populist vote has in that time gone over to the Democratic party, and that is undoubtedly true; and in this fact may be found what is most significant in the Socialistic movement. While socialism as a distinct party movement has not, in spite of its growth, yet become an important issue, there is unquestionably a large growth of socialistic sentiment in the other parties.

There is a large faction in the Democratic party whose drift is distinctly toward socialism. Mr. Watson's candidacy was socialistic in character. There is even some socialism in the Republican party.

If there is any occasion for alarm regarding socialism, it lies in the possibility that these various scraps of socialistic sentiment now lying around loose in several parties may some day be gathered together into a compact political machine. At present there are Socialists and Socialists, and no two think exactly alike in regard to the principles which they advocate, and there is a wide difference in the ends sought and the methods to be employed.

The Bowery of Tradition and of Fact.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* Almost all cities of prominence have some spot within their boundary limits with which even the most superficial of readers have become familiar. A mention of "le quartier Latin" immediately suggests Paris, a sojourn in Berlin without a visit to "Unter den Linden" is unheard of and all the streets of Amsterdam lead to "den Dam."

The metropolis of the New World, not to be outdone by her ancient prototypes, boasts one short street the existence of which has become known to most Europeans, and some members of the army of prospective Americans arriving here via Ellis Island have a sneaking suspicion that "the Bowery" is New York city's "raison d'être."

Recently I left my home in the country of which Voltaire said that it contained only "canaux, canards et canaille," and before embarking on a steamer of the Holland-America Line in Rotterdam I purchased a book in which appeared a synopsis of the earlier chapters of the Bowery's career. During the ship's ultimately successful, though rather violent, exertions in an attempt to arrive off Sandy Hook, a perusal of the above named volume proved diverting and was expected to give the reader some inkling as to the nature of the city that was to be his future home.

It appears that at a time when a certain Stuyvesant was "burgemeester" of New Amsterdam the city was threatened with a sauerkraut famine. While reading this the ship's contortions were hardly conducive to impressing upon my mind, and much less upon my stomach, the peril that threatened those countrymen who preceded me. However, a demand for sauerkraut having been made, a number of representative citizens speedily decided to supply this necessary adjunct to a Dutchman's interior economy. A strip of land outside the city limits was selected as eminently suitable for the raising of cabbages, and to this cabbage patch the inhabitants referred as the "Bouwerei."

For the benefit of the monoglot Anglo-Saxon it may here be explained that "bouwerei" comes from a Dutch verb meaning "to till"; a "landbouwer" is an agriculturist, and "bouwerei" the spot where agricultural products are raised. But to proceed.

After successfully passing the examination at the preparatory college of American citizenship on Ellis Island I decided that in order speedily to recuperate from the effects of previous seasickness and to cure the present homesickness, a view of such a typically Dutch scene as a cabbage patch might be prescribed as a potent remedy.

"Vat vay is de Bouwerei?"

Shades of my phlegmatically pipe smoking ancestors! As stated above, the "Bouwerei" used to be exclusively devoted to the raising of cabbages. And when at last permitted to view the thoroughfare where, according to the song, "they do such things, and they say such things," I received the impression that it was a place set apart for the raising of Hebrews and elevated railroad pillars.

I am now an American citizen and know New York as if I had made it myself; but a visit to the Bowery is even yet coincident with a feeling of disappointment at the absence of embryo sauerkraut on this historic highway. Frank Hanson.

New York, Dec. 14.

Prayer With a Reference.

From the Nashville Banner.

"Many years ago a distinguished officer of the army, who also held the position of chaplain, offered prayer before the regiment," says Representative Cooper of Texas. "He summed up the causes and objects of the war—the war with Mexico—and asserted that it was no war of conquest, but annexation only, concluding his supplication to the Throne of Grace with: 'I refer you, good Lord, to Polk's message on this subject.'"

THE SOUTH'S POLITICAL FUTURE

Advised to Take Possession of the Southern Republican Machine.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* The discussion in The Sun of the present and future political attitude of the South is both interesting and encouraging. There are indications that the two parts of the country commonly referred to as the North and the South are inclined to look at this question with toleration and sympathy on the one hand and reasonably and inquiringly on the other.

What is to be the political future of the South? She has wealth, untold resources, brains—and the negro. But she is threatened with political isolation because of her lack of sympathy with the men and principles or professions of the Democratic party; because of her aversion, through tradition and sentiment, to the Republican party, and because of the ever present negro question.

The real and substantial cause of this peculiar attitude of the South is to be found in one of the factors above mentioned—the negro. His presence has absolutely cut off all consideration of national issues in that great part of the Union for forty years. But this disturbing element has been largely eliminated. The Constitutional amendments adopted in several of the Southern States have been sustained by the Supreme Court, and the negro, speaking largely, is out of politics. This is a move, the wisdom of which all recognize who know conditions where the negro race, in its present condition, is in great numbers; and it is coming to be recognized generally.

The suggestions thus far offered in the current discussions of this Southern question do not, it seems to me, reach the mark.

No one who knows the people will deny that the Southern voters, the negro question aside, are overwhelmingly Republican in principle. On all the great questions of the day—money, tariff, the canal, the army, the navy, the Philippines, our foreign policy—the Southern voters are in accord with Mr. Roosevelt and the Republican party, and they have voted recently with the Democratic party from pure sentiment; partly also, perhaps, in a spirit of resentment, cultivated industriously by certain of their leaders, against the fancied slights put upon them by Mr. Roosevelt in two or three instances.

What is to prevent these voters from taking possession of the Republican party in the South? Why not go over in a body, control the primaries, dislodge the present officeholding Republican leaders, organize the conventions, select delegates to their liking to State and national conventions, and become powerful factors in State and national affairs? Their local traditions need not be disturbed at all.

Let them run their local affairs as they do now. The negro is eliminated. Let the South recognize this as well as the North, and let the South resume its place as a centre of intelligent and conservatively progressive thought in the nation. She would be welcomed to her old estate.

The scheme would, of course, arouse tremendous opposition in certain directions in the South. The politicians of the kind whose stock in trade is prejudice and hate of everything labelled Republican would grow purple with their well worn denunciations. But the indications are that the influence of this class is passing.

It is inconceivable that a part of our country so wealthy, so rich in resources and so full of brains will continue to be oblivious to its own material and political interests, blindly ignoring all national questions, because of an issue which has been removed by its own wisdom. Why not go over and take possession and reap the rewards? Some of the present leaders would be lost, but new ones—not all of them young—and better ones would take their places.

New York, Dec. 14. C. L. Harwood.

A Scotch Theologian and the Immaculate Conception.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* The letter of Mr. Edmund G. Hurley, on a "Protestant Celebration of the Immaculate Conception," was one of the most delightful things on your editorial page of Sunday, and that is saying much. Its selections from some former letter to the editor—"black albs"—"six thuribles, smoking"—"acolytes suspended from the ceiling"—are as funny in their way as your Japanese San Francisco correspondent's story of "a bull with her calf."

However, Mr. Hurley's literally true assertion about the silence of the Protestant Episcopal calendar as to any feast of the Immaculate Conception is likely to be somewhat misleading.

The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States is historically a scion of the Established Church of England and the Episcopalian Church of Scotland, neither of which bodies has ever officially called itself Protestant. Now, in the calendar common to these two churches of England and Scotland there is a "Feast of the Conception B. V. M.," in connection with which feast a story is told in Scotland that may be appropriate to the present discussion.

In the town of Dundee, in the Diocese of Brechin, some thirty-five years ago, a certain priest of extremely "high" theological tendencies was accused to the Bishop (Dr. Forbes) of having ceremoniously observed the feast and unequivocally preached the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, said feast and doctrine being "most offensively Popish." Cited before the Bishop to explain, the priest, with a book of the Church service in one hand and a pinch of snuff between the thumb and forefinger of the other, argued as follows:

> My lord, I point out to your lordship in this calendar, under date of December 8, the direction, "Conception B. V. M." I presume that this direction follows the custom of the Church Universal. As your lordship is doubtless aware, the Church Universal has never celebrated the entrance of a soul into a state of sin, either original or actual. This is illustrated in the fact that the feast of every saint, excepting the Blessed Virgin, St. John the Baptist, St. Elias, is observed upon the anniversary of departure from this life, not upon the anniversary of the saint's birth according to the flesh.
>
> Therefore, since the Church does not direct us to celebrate the Conception of the Blessed Virgin in the state of original sin, I respectfully submit that the feast here appointed in the calendar must be that of her entrance into physical human existence without original sin, and this is what I understand by the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Therefore, I stand justified in celebrating this feast, as charged in the indictment.

The accused then took his pinch of snuff and awaited judgment. The Bishop pondered, and postponed the matter *sine die.* Also—just to finish the story—the accused, whose name was Thomas Humphrey, had previously been a Scottish advocate, and he subsequently became a Jesuit—circumstances which suggest that the compound of Scotch logic with Christian theology may be dangerous.

New York, Dec. 13. E. T. L.

Kansas Social Information.

Maple Park correspondence Erie Record.

Ernest Hess practiced shooting at a mark and was badly beaten. Who done it? Ask Sue.

R. A. Burkett's hot box corn husker caught fire last Tuesday.

Wonder what Mrs. Koth is going to give L. H. and D. C. for a wedding present when they get married.

Girls, you had better let your fellows stay all night these cold nights and not have the old folks out hunting them until 4 o'clock in the morning. It is too tough on the old people.

Stella Ermey is confined to her room with a sore jaw.

We are glad to know Orvil Harris is seen buggy riding again.

The Difference.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

"You are ruled," said a Briton, "by a lot of vulgar rascals whom you would never dream of meeting socially, don't you know."

"Yes," replied the American, "but in England you are ruled by a lot of people who would never dream of meeting you socially."

The Fame of St. Louis.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

St. Louis is the metropolis of the Mississippi Valley, and in the course of time will be the world's chief show town.

PEACE CONFERENCE FAR DISTANT

Russia's Refusal to Join Likely to Delay It Until the War Ends.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The Hague Conference seems to be a matter of the distant future, just how distant depending almost altogether on the outcome of the war in the East. In diplomatic circles it is not believed for one moment that the Powers of Europe will enter into the conference without Russia, and Russia has expressed her intention of staying out.

Just what plan Secretary Hay will try to overcome this seemingly insurmountable obstacle remains to be seen. The end of the war, according to both Japan and Russia is not in sight. No date has, however, been set for the conference at The Hague, but it is known that it would be highly desirable to Government officials to have the conference in the fore part of the coming year. But the outlook now makes this seem an impossibility, though Secretary Hay may be able to devise some plan or to make some provision whereby he can gain Russia's consent to enter into the conference.

If Russia does not consent, there will be an absolute deadlock.

An Ambassador of one of the leading European Powers to-day stated emphatically that his country would not enter into the conference so long as Russia stays out. Russia's refusal to participate was extremely disappointing.

It is the plan of the State Department to send to each of the countries signatory to The Hague Conference the replies of all other countries. Then, it is probable, an effort will be made to have a date set. This, at least, was the plan prior to Russia's refusal.

TO SELL DODGE JEWELS.

President Refuses to Set Aside the Treasury Department Ruling.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The Secretary of the Treasury to-day denied the application of Mrs. Phyllis Dodge of New York to set aside the Treasury order for the sale of a $40,000 pearl necklace and other jewelry seized upon her arrival in this country from abroad. The Secretary directs that Mrs. Dodge's valuables be sold at public auction.

Former Special Treasury Agent Theobald, who gave the information which led to the discovery that Mrs. Dodge was bringing in jewelry without declaring it, will receive part of the proceeds of the sale as a reward.

The President's refusal to set aside the decision, which required that the pearls be permanently seized by the Government and sold at public auction, as he is empowered to do under the statutes, is the culmination of a long series of efforts that have been made to save the jewels for Mrs. Dodge. The case was decided by the courts in favor of the Treasury Department, but Mrs. Dodge employed Edward Lauterbach and W. Wickham Smith as her counsel in a movement to persuade the President to restore the pearls to the former owner. The substance of their argument was that Mrs. Dodge had not intended to defraud the Government and that upon being asked by the customs inspectors if she had dutiable gems in her possession she had readily admitted that she had them and that she immediately produced them.

EDUCATING NEGRO PREACHERS.

The Important Task Begun With a $2,000,000 Fund—Its Head Worker Honored.

Fifteen clergymen and elders interested in the work of educating the Southern negro preacher, gave a dinner last night to the Rev. S. G. Miller, superintendent of the John C. Martin Fund work. This fund, which approximates $2,000,000, is to be used for educating negro clergymen of all denominations. It is the ultimate intention to bring the work to a focus in a Chautauqua for Southern negroes.

The Rev. Mr. Miller has been organizing Bible institutes for a year. He has completed the work in Arkansas and made a beginning in Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"Even as it stands now," he said yesterday, "this is the biggest theological seminary in the country. We have 1,000 students and hope to have 30,000 before we are through. The clergymen are pathetically eager to learn, and they pass the knowledge straight on to their congregations. The people of the South are with us; they approve of this method of uplifting the negro.

"We have had some difficulty with interdenominational prejudice, for these people are generally bigots, but we are getting around that. It is the greatest work for the negro undertaken since emancipation."

TO PUT A BAN ON FOOTBALL.

Nebraska Legislator Has a Scheme to Stamp Out the Game There.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 14.—Representative A. V. Cunningham, a member of the Nebraska Legislature from Hamilton county, has proposed a statute prohibiting mass plays or the tackling or throwing to the ground of any football player by an adversary.

Cunningham is a bitter opponent of football, holding that the game has become such a fad at the University of Nebraska and at other Nebraska institutions of learning that it is detrimental to education. He asserts he has determined to stamp out the game, and he figures that his bill will put a stop to the sport as effectually as if it were prohibited in direct language by law, although he fears that many measures such as the latter might not run the gantlet of the constitutional test.

Cunningham is canvassing other members of the Legislature seeking their support, and he threatens to hang up the university appropriation if any of the authorities of that institution become active in their opposition to the measure.

GASOLENE AUTO BY FERRYBOAT.

Test Penalty Case on Trial in the United States Court.

Trial was begun in the United States District Court yesterday before Judge Adams of the Government's case against the ferryboat Texas, owned by the Brooklyn Ferryboat Company, for carrying a gasolene automobile across the East River on Oct. 14 last. The Texas is charged with violating Section 4477, United States statutes, which provides against the carriage of dangerous explosive burning fluids as freight by passenger vessels.

Mr. Baldwin for the Government called as experts Prof. Hutton of Columbia and Prof. Jacobus of the Stevens Institute of Technology, both of whom swore that gas generated from gasolene mixed with air and coming from the carburetter of an automobile is really and chemically fire. There could be, they averred, fire without any flame.

The defence declared that the automobile did not leave the ferryboat by its own power. Judge Adams gave both sides two weeks in which to submit briefs.

HEWITT STATUE DISAPPROVED.

Art Commission Accepts Designs for New Harlem Bridge.

The Municipal Art Commission has disapproved of the model for the Abram S. Hewitt statue, which is to be one of eight to be placed on the Chambers street façade of the new Hall of Records. The model was the work of Philip Martiny. Although no reasons were given for the action of the commission, it is understood that the members did not consider the likeness to the late Mr. Hewitt sufficiently faithful.

The commission has approved Comptroller Grout's suggestion that the portrait of the late Andrew H. Green be hung in the Comptroller's office in the Stewart Building. The portrait has been lying in the Governor's room of the City Hall for nearly a year.

The designs for the new bridge to be built over the Harlem ship canal for the rapid transit extension were approved.